

TWO CHINESE POEMS

WITH 8th CENTURY TEXTS

for

VOICE *and* PIANO

By

EMERSON WHITHORNE

Op. 18

I

THE KING OF LIANG

II

THE FEAST

COMPOSERS' MUSIC CORPORATION

14 East 48th Street, New York

THE KING OF LIANG

I

There was a King of Liang—a king of wondrous might—
Who kept an open palace, where music charmed the night.

II

Since he was Lord of Liang a thousand years have flown,
And of the towers he builded yon ruin stands alone.

III

There reigns a heavy silence; gaunt weeds through windows pry,
And down the streets of Liang old echoes, wailing, die.

—KAO-SHIH (Circa A. D. 700)

Kao-Shih was one of the most fascinating of all the T'ang poets. His life was one long series of romantic adventure. At first a poor youth battling with adversity; then a lover of an actress, whom he followed through the provinces, playwriting for the strolling troupe to which she was attached; then next, secretary to a high personage on a mission to Thibet; then soldier, and finally poet of renown, acquiring with his latter years the fortune and honours denied him in his youth.

Translation and biographical sketch
by L. Cranmer-Byng, from *A Lute
Of Jade*, Reprinted by permis-
sion of Messrs. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Authentic Chinese melodies have been employed in these songs.

—E. W.

*Dedicated to
Robert Winthrop Chanler*

The King of Liang

Kao-shih
Circa A.D. 700

Emerson Whithorne
Op. 18, No. 1

Allegretto con umore ($\text{♩} = 132$)

Voice

Piano

senza pedale

mf

There was a King of Liang

mf

* *Liang*: the pronunciation should be nearer one syllable than two.

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poco rubato

A King of won - drous might.

poco rubato

p a tempo

Who kept an o - pen pal - ace,

p a tempo

Red. *

rubato *f a tempo*

where mu - sic charmed the night.

rubato *f a tempo*

Red. * Red. *

First system of musical notation. The vocal line (top staff) contains a few notes. The piano accompaniment (bottom two staves) features a series of chords and moving lines. A *rall.* (rallentando) marking is present above the piano part, and a *fz* (forzando) marking is at the end of the system. A *Red.* (Reduction) symbol with an asterisk is at the bottom right.

Second system of musical notation. The vocal line (top staff) is mostly empty. The piano accompaniment (bottom two staves) consists of a continuous pattern of chords. A *p a tempo* (piano, at tempo) marking is on the left, and a *pp* (pianissimo) marking is on the right.

Moderato mesto (♩ = 84)

Since he was Lord of Liang a thou-sand

Third system of musical notation. The vocal line (top staff) contains the lyrics "Since he was Lord of Liang a thou-sand". The piano accompaniment (bottom two staves) features a continuous pattern of chords. A *du* (duo) marking is on the left.

years have flown, _____ And of the tow'rs he

Ra. * Ra. *

build - ed _____ yon ru - in stands a - lone. _____

Ra. *

Moderato misterioso (♩ = 108)

p

p.

*una corda
senza pedale*

Ra. *

First system of music, measures 1-3. The top staff is empty. The middle staff (bass clef) has a melodic line with slurs and a crescendo hairpin. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a sparse accompaniment. Dynamics include *p.*, *mp*, and *mf marcato*.

Second system of music, measures 4-6. The top staff is empty. The middle staff (bass clef) continues the melodic line. The bottom staff (bass clef) continues the accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp*, *p.*, *mf marcato*, and *ritard.*

Adagio ($\text{♩} = 66$)

There reigns a heav- y si - lence;

Third system of music, measures 7-9. The top staff (treble clef) has a vocal line. The middle staff (treble clef) has a piano accompaniment. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, and *mp*.

(♩ = ♩)

gaunt weeds through win-dows pry, ———

pp *mp*

tre corde *

mf

And down the streets_ of Liang old ech - oes,

mp *mf*

tre corde * *

mf (♩ = ♩) Allegretto (♩ = 132)

wail - ing, die. ———

mf

tre corde * *senza pedale*

First system of a musical score. It consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The top staff contains a whole note followed by a half rest. The grand staff begins with a piano introduction marked *mp morendo*. The right hand plays a series of eighth notes, while the left hand plays a bass line of eighth notes. After a double bar line, the tempo changes to *mp a tempo*. The right hand continues with eighth notes, and the left hand has a whole note followed by a half rest. A *p.* (piano) marking is placed below the left hand staff, with the instruction *una corda* written below it.

Second system of the musical score, continuing the grand staff from the first system. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a whole note followed by a half rest, with a *p.* (piano) marking below it. This pattern repeats for the next two measures.

Third system of the musical score. The top staff remains empty. The grand staff features a *ritard. al fine* (ritardando to the end) instruction. The right hand plays a series of chords, with *fz* (forzando) markings under the first two measures. The left hand plays a bass line of chords. The system concludes with a dynamic shift from *mp* (mezzo-piano) to *pp* (pianissimo).

THE FEAST

I

From silver lamps a thin blue smoke is streaming,
And golden vases 'mid the feast are gleaming;
Now sound the lutes in unison,
Within the gates our lives are one.
We'll think not of the parting ways
As long as dawn delays.

II

When in tall trees the dying moonbeams quiver:
When floods of fire efface the Silver River,
Then comes the hour when I must seek
Lo-yang, beyond the furthest peak.
But the warm twilight round us twain
Will never rise again.

—CH'ÊN TZU-ANG (A. D. 656-698)

Ch'ên Tzu-ang was famous for writing that kind of impromptu descriptive verse which the Chinese call "ying." In temperament he was less Chinese than most of his contemporaries. His passionate disposition finally brought him into trouble with the magistrate of his district, who cast him into prison, where he died at the age of forty-two.

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The Feast

Ch'ên Tzŭ-ang
A.D. 656-698

Emerson Whithorne
Op. 18, No. 2

Animato e frescamente (♩ = 144)

mp *mf* *fz* *fz*

Meno mosso (♩ = 132)

mf *mp riten.* *fz*

mp *p*

From sil - ver lamps a

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thin blue smoke is stream -

* *Re.*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line (treble clef) has a melody starting on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a descending eighth-note scale in the right hand (F#4 to D5) and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand (G3 to D4). A fermata is placed over the final notes of both staves.

- ing, *mp* And

p * *Re.* *

Detailed description: This system contains measures three through five. The vocal line continues with a half note D5, followed by a whole rest. The piano accompaniment continues with the same patterns. In measure four, the piano part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The system ends with a fermata over the final notes. A *Re.* (Repeat) sign is located below the piano part in measure five.

gold - en vas - es 'mid the feast are

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures six through eight. The vocal line has a melody starting on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The piano accompaniment features a descending eighth-note scale in the right hand (F#4 to D5) and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand (G3 to D4). A fermata is placed over the final notes of both staves. A dynamic marking of *p* is present in the piano part at the beginning of the system.

mf gleam - - - - ing; Now sound the

mf

* *Re.* * *Re.* *

ritard. *p* *a tempo*

lutes in u - - - ni - son, With - in the gates our

ritard. *p* *a tempo*

poco marcato

p Tranquillo e misticamente (♩=116)

lives are one. We'll think not of the

pp *mp* *poco marcato*

Re. * *Re.* *

part-ing ways. *accel.* *mp* As

accel. *mf*

*Re. ** *Re. ** *Re. ** *Re. **

a tempo long as dawn de-lays. *accel.*

a tempo *p subito* *accel.*

*Re. ** *Re. ** *Re. ** *Re. **

Animato (Tempo I)

f *ffz* *ffz*

*Re. ** *Re. ** *Re. ** *Re. **

mf *fz*

Ra * Ra * Ra * Ra *

fz *mp* *rit.* *fz*

Ra *

Meno mosso (*Tempo II*)

mp

When in tall trees the dy - - - ing

p

Ra

moon - - beams quiv - - er:

mf

* Ra *

mp

When floods of fire ef -

p

Ra

face the Sil - - ver Riv - er,

* Ra *

mf *rall.* *p ten.*

Then comes the hour when I must seek Lo - yang,

mf *rall.* *p ten.*

ten.

a tempo *p*

be-yond the furth - est peak. But the

a tempo *pp*

Tranquillo (Tempo III) *accel.*

warm twi - light round us twain

p *poco marcato* *mf accel.* *ffz*

*Re. ** *Re. ** *Re.*

mp *rall. molto*
Will nev-er rise a - gain.

f *rall. molto*
mp subito

* *Re.* *

accel. *Animato (Tempo I)*

accel. *f* *mp*

fz

* *Re.* * *Re.* * *senza pedale*

p *mf marcato* *ritard.* *mp*